

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 24, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require additional search. Claims 9-16 have been allowed. Claims 2-5 and 8 are submitted for consideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 9-16.

Claims 2-5 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended to be in independent form. Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been amended to place those claims in independent form. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and incorporates all of the elements of independent claim 3. Thus, Applicant requests that the objection of these claims be withdrawn and that claims 2-5 be allowed.

The following prior art rejections have been made in the outstanding Office Action:

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,268,656 to Muscavage.

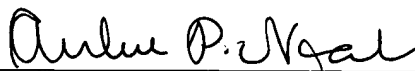
However, the Office Action noted that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As will be discussed above, the allowable claims have been placed in independent form and claim 8 has been amended to correspond with allowable claim 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is also allowable and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

As noted previously, claims 2-5 and 8 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art reference cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that, in addition to claims 9-16, all of claims 2-5 and 8 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Claim Fee Transmittal